

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Please **CANCEL** claim 18 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please **AMEND** claim 16 as shown below.

Please **ADD** claim 19 as shown below.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-15. (cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) [[An]] A thermal protection system, comprising:  
an insulating core comprising carbon foam having a thermal conductivity below  
about 1 W/m °K and a density ranging from about 0.1 to about 0.8 g/cm<sup>3</sup>.

17. (Previously Presented) The thermal protection system of claim 16, wherein  
the carbon foam is a coal-based cellular foam.

18. (Cancelled) The thermal protection system of claim 16, wherein the carbon  
foam has a density ranging from about 0.1 to about 0.8 g/cm<sup>3</sup>.

19. (New) A thermal protection system, comprising:  
  
an insulating core comprising carbon foam and having a density ranging from  
  
about 0.1 to about 0.8 g/cm<sup>3</sup>.